

# DRAFT VERSION 1.9.18

POLICY: 5360

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## HOMEBOUND AND HOME-BASED INSTRUCTION

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) ~~under State authorization~~ offers homebound and home-based instruction as part of the a continuum of services to ~~school-age children students~~ who are actively enrolled in LCPS and must be temporarily confined at home or in a health care facility. This instruction is offered to those students whose medical needs prevent students from attending school for a limited period of time, based upon certification of need by the attending licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist.

A. Homebound Instruction: Homebound instruction is academic instruction provided to students who are confined at home or in a health care facility for periods that would prevent regular school attendance and who have been certified by a treating physician, nurse practitioner, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, or licensed clinical psychologist and are unable to attend public school because of a physical or mental health condition. Homebound instruction is designed to provide temporary continuity of educational services between the classroom and home or health care facility and will be provided as follows:

1. Homebound instruction shall be considered for students who have submitted completed medical certification. If the student is referred for a mental health illness, the certifying health provider must be a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, or licensed clinical psychologist.
2. Homebound instruction shall be approved when:
  - a. the parents or guardians provide the school-based homebound contact a fully completed medical certification of need, including parental permission to contact the treating physician, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, or licensed clinical psychologist, and
  - b. the Homebound Services Coordinator completes a review of all documentation, follows up with the treating providers, determines that homebound instruction is required and approves the request, and
  - c. The Homebound Services Coordinator submits notification of the determination decision and the dates of approval to the school based team and the Special Education Supervisor, if required,
3. Homebound instruction for students receiving special education services shall be subject to review of the students Individualized Education Program (IEP) team pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As part of it's review the IEP Team must:

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- a. review the homebound courses recommended by the Homebound Coordinator and/or school based team.
  - b. review the approved medical certification of need.
  - c. determine the appropriate placement for the student based on the student's educational needs.
  - d. obtain parental consent to amend the students IEP, prior to initiation of homebound instruction.
  - e. revise the IEP and determine the delivery and number of hours of special education services provided.
  - f. include language in the IEP that clearly determines the delivery of homebound instruction, the time period and duration of services and the frequency, including the number of hours of instruction.
  - g. include a statement that stipulates that homebound instruction is temporary and does not constitute a permanent change in placement and is not considered a "stay put" placement.
4. Homebound instruction may be:
- a. provided to LCPS students who are confined in another county or city in Virginia and to qualified students in another state who meet homebound eligibility requirements.
  - b. supplemental, or part-time, for LCPS students with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with regular school attendance.
  - c. provided on an intermittent basis for students with chronic illnesses if recommended by the physician or treating provider and approved by the Homebound Coordinator.
  - d. take place in the school setting to the fullest extent possible or part-time for students who are unable to participate in a full day within the classroom setting.
  - e. extended beyond nine weeks with the required physicians request for an extension and when submitted to the school homebound contact by the physician or treating provider.
  - f. provided in alternative settings if the home is not deemed appropriate for instruction and the students condition allows.

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5. Instructional priority will be provided for core academic subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Science). Advanced Placement, electives, and special courses are not guaranteed and if, due to very unique circumstances, it is determined that the course should be provided, it will not be comparable to the school-based instructional experience. Personal finance, economics, and/or foreign language courses may be considered for high school students if required for graduation.
6. The following represents the minimum hours of instruction to be provided. These hours may not be applicable in all instances and the IEP team will determine the number of hours necessary for students to access homebound instruction:
  - a. Elementary school students – one hour per day
  - b. Middle school students – eight hours per week
  - c. High school students – two hours per core academic subject per week and other accommodations on an individual basis
7. Students receiving homebound instruction will be expected to complete homework and other assignments independently and outside of the presence of the homebound teacher and should be prepared to participate in the instructional process. When possible, school-based instructional options should be utilized including part time homebound instruction, online programs or other forms of technology.
8. A student who is pregnant is entitled to homebound instruction following delivery of her child for a period of six (6) calendar weeks for a normal delivery or eight (8) calendar weeks for a C-section. A pregnant student is expected to attend school unless her physician certifies that she is physically or emotionally unable to participate in the regular school program and/or activities. With appropriate medical documentation of complications, instruction may be provided prior to delivery and/or beyond six (6) calendar weeks post-partum.
9. Students on homebound instruction will have access to Standards of Learning Assessments (SOLS) as prescribed by 8VAC 20-131-30.

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10. Homebound instruction is not intended to supplant school instruction nor a guarantee that the student will progress academically or meet graduation requirements on time. Credit for student work shall be awarded when it is completed under the direction of a licensed teacher and the work meets subject matter content standards and there is evidence that the instructional time requirements or alternative means of awarding credit are in accordance with 8VAC20-131-110.
11. Students participating in homebound instruction may be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities, including sports, if recommended by the treating physician or provider and approved by LCPS staff.
12. Homebound instruction shall be terminated after 9 weeks unless a completed reauthorization form including; the justification and anticipated timeframe of the extended homebound instruction; an updated treatment plan; progress towards treatment goals; and plans to transition the student back to the school setting is provided by the treating health care provider documenting the need for extended instructional support. If the student has an IEP, the IEP Team must amend the IEP at the conclusion of the services and either return the student to the school setting or continue homebound instruction or alternative placement as determined by the IEP team.

B. Home-based Instruction – Home-based instruction may be provided to general education or special education students who have been removed from school due to disciplinary or other reasons. Medical certification is not necessary for such a placement and no reimbursement is provided for these services. Home-based instruction will be provided as follows:

1. General Education Students
  - a. Home-based instruction may be considered as a temporary alternative instructional option for general education students, for disciplinary or other reasons, as approved by the Office of School Administration and coordinated by the school-based team.
  - b. Home-based instruction may be delivered in the home setting (or other approved setting)

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- c. Instructional priority will be provided for core academic subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Science). Advanced Placement, electives, and special courses are not guaranteed and if, very unique circumstances, it is determined that the course should be provided, it will not be comparable to the school-based instructional experience. Personal finance, economics, and/or foreign language courses may be considered for high school students if required for graduation.

### 2. Special Education Students

- a. Home-based instruction for students receiving special education services will be coordinated through the Office of Special Education and may be considered by the IEP team as a temporary alternative instructional option for students who have been suspended for more than ten school days for disciplinary reasons, or other reasons as determined by the IEP team.
- b. Home-based instruction may be delivered in the home setting (or other agreed upon setting) in accordance with the student's IEP. The student's IEP team will make this placement decision based upon the student's educational needs and consideration of the student's least restrictive environment.
- c. A student receiving home-based instruction is carried on the roll of the school the student attended prior to the disciplinary action for the duration of the home-based instruction and will be marked present based on session attendance and participation.
- d. Instruction support is determined by the student's IEP team. Priority will be given to core academic subjects. The IEP team will determine the hours, duration, and location of the instructional service.

### C. Homebound and Home-based Teachers

Teachers eligible to ~~be employed to instruct~~ provide homebound and home-based ~~students instruction~~ must hold an active Virginia license issued in accordance with rules and regulations of the Virginia State Board of Education.

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212  
213[Former 5-64]  
214Adopted: [8/11/70](#)  
215Revised: [6/22/93](#) [10/13/09](#)  
216Current Revision: [10/13/09](#) \_\_\_\_\_

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219  
220Leg Ref: [8VAC20-131-180](#)  
221Leg Ref: [8VAC20-131-110](#)  
222Leg Ref: [8VAC20-131-30](#)  
223[Virginia Department of Education Homebound Instructional Services Guidelines](#)  
224[Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia](#)